

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's examination of this case. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant remarks.

In view of the objections raised by the Examiner, claims 1 – 10 are deleted and they are replaced by new claims 11 – 20.

New claim 11 is a combination of original claims 1 and 3. The Examiner indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 12 is a combination of original claims 1 and 4. The Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 13 corresponds to original claim 2 but dependent on new claim 11. Claim 13 is believed to be allowable because it includes all of the features of claim 11 and claim 11 has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

Claim 14 corresponds to original claim 2 but dependent on claim 12. Claim 14 is believed to be allowable because it includes all of the features of claim 11 and claim 11 has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

Claim 15 is a combination of original claims 1 and 6. The Examiner indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 16 corresponds to original claim 5 but made dependent on claim 15. Since claim 15 has been indicated as being allowable, it is believed that claim 16 will be allowable because claim 16 includes all of the features of claim 15.

Claim 17 is a combination of original claims 1 and 7. The Examiner indicated that original claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 18 corresponds to original claim 8. This claim is dependent upon the new claim 17 (original claim 7). The Examiner has indicated that this claim is allowable.

Claim 19 corresponds to original claim 9. The Examiner has already kindly allowed claim 9.

Claim 20 corresponds to original claim 10. The Examiner has already kindly allowed claim 10.

Original claims 1 and 2 were rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated by Trutna et al. Original claim 1 has been deleted, thereby meeting this objection of the Examiner. Original claim 2 now occurs as new claims 13 and 14. Both of these claims are now dependent upon claims previously indicated by the Examiner to be allowable so that the objection to original claim 2 has been dealt with.

With regard to original claim 5, the Examiner referred to Figure 3B of Trutna et al. As noted above, original claim 5 is now new claim 16 which is dependent upon new claim 15. The Examiner indicated that claim 15 is allowable, and thus dependent claim 16 is believed to be allowable.

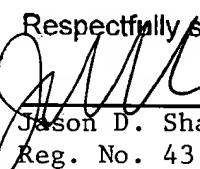
With regard to the other patents cited by the Examiner, these have been carefully considered and they are not believed to affect the allowability of the new claims 11 – 20, nor the above submissions.

In accordance with the Applicants' need to disclose all relevant prior art, it is hereby disclosed that there is a Paper entitled "Broad spectrum, wavelength-swept, erbium doped fiber laser at 1.5  $\mu$ m" by P.F. Wysocki et al. (Opt. letts. Vol. 15 p. 879-881, 1990). A copy of this paper is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. The content of the paper forms the basis of USA Patent No. 5,189,676. USA Patent No. 5,189,676 is mentioned by the Examiner in the present Office Action and it, together with the said Paper, are not believed relevant to the new claims as presently filed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this **RESPONSE** is found to be **INCOMPLETE**, or if at any time it appears that a **TELEPHONE CONFERENCE** with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or one of his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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